



Rectortown Reporter

February 2021

From the Pastor

Love One Another

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!



Love is a popular theme in human literature and entertainment. It's portrayed in comedies, satires, dramas, and tragedies. I'm sure you just about everyone can come up with lots of movie, television, and song titles with "love" in it. I thought of "The Love Boat" on television; and "The Love Bug" from movies. There's the "Tunnel of Love" at carnivals; and "love potions" guaranteed to fix you up with that special someone! There's "I Love Lucy" and "Love American Style". And, let's not forget the Beatles who sang that "love is all you really need". Let's face it — humanity is fascinated, thrilled, bewildered, and confused by the concept of "love".

February is sometimes thought of as the "love month" because of Valentine's Day. It's a time when we give cards and candies and roses and other gifts to that special someone asking them to be "our Valentine". It is fitting that this special day focused on love is right in the middle of *Epiphanytide*, which began on January 6th, and continues until *Transfiguration Sunday*, which is the last Sunday before *Ash Wednesday*. The theme during *Epiphanytide* is God's self-revelation to humanity through Jesus Christ. Epiphany, I think, is one of the greatest examples of love we've ever known — it's a divine Valentine's meant not for one person, but for every person every where in every age.

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:16-17). God love us — and God wants us to love us too. Not just some of us — but all of us. It's easy to love those closest to us, and those who look, think, and act like us. But, what about those others — those who don't look, think, or act like we do — those others who don't vote like we do, or _____. Well, I'm sure you can fill in that blank with many other examples. God calls us to stretch out our arms to embrace those others too, just like Jesus did. Remember, there's no one beyond the reach of God's grace; and there's no one beyond the need of God's grace.

Grace and peace to each and every one of you!

Pastor Steve

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JOIN US

10 a.m. Sundays for In-person
or Livestream Worship at
www.rectortownumc.org

Scripture of the month

This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than to give up one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. I give you these commandments so that you can love each other. (John 15:12-14, 16-17, CEB)

Congratulations McKenzie!



McKenzie won Grand Champion in the Limit Rider Division at the Warrenton Horse Show this past summer. She didn't find out until Christmas Eve. It was a nice surprise for her.



February Birthdays

- Shirley Embrey 2/7
- Greg Kroes 2/15
- Kim Kroes 2/16
- David Weedling 2/29

RUMC wants to know... If you have any photos from our events, news or recipes you'd like to share, please e-mail Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com.

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Tues Feb 2 7 pm HCT (tentative)
- Wed Feb 3* 6:30 pm RUMC Vision for 2021 and Beyond**
- Thurs Feb 4 7 pm Administrative Council
- Tues Feb 9 10 am Worship Committee
- Wed Feb 10 6 pm Trustees
- Thurs Feb 18 7 pm SPPRC

*For more details, see the insert or p3 of pdf.



Our Mission Statement

Serving God through Prayer, Action, and Love through Service.

RUMC Vision for 2021 and Beyond

All are invited to attend anytime starting at 6:30pm on Feb 3. We need to hear what YOU think about current and future worship practices and events during and after the pandemic. Check out the insert for more details.



Rectortown United Methodist Church Visioning Meeting
Wednesday, February 3rd beginning at 6:30 pm via ZOOM
(invite can be found on the calendar at www.rectortownumc.org.)

Please let us know if you plan to attend at:

<https://forms.gle/nvFhU5EwyA7cW2QEA>

You can also email call or text the secretary or the pastor.

This meeting concerning the path we will forge as we move forward towards a new tomorrow is very important. When the pandemic hit us in March of 2020, it changed everything for practically everybody in our families, our church, our communities, our nation, and indeed, the whole world. I'm sure we all wanted 2021 to begin with things being back to 'normal', but, that didn't happen. And, even though there is a vaccine and our population has begun to be immunized, it is the opinion of those experts at the forefront of combatting this pandemic in the US that current restrictions and protocols will probably remain in effect at least until the fall, if not longer. So, we need to figure out what normal will look like for us, and to develop a vision and a plan to help us move forward and continue to reach out in mission and ministry to our Rectortown community. We need your help, your thoughts, your ideas to help us do that. What would you like to see as our church's top three priorities now? How would that change in the next 6 to 9 months? Please plan to attend this meeting and let us know what you think.